The Senior Spotlight Awards: July 23rd, 2007





Charlie Wines, Lebanon, IN



Charlie Wines has lived in Lebanon his entire life. He is a veteran of the Korean War where he served in the US Air Force and a former National Guardsman. Over the years, he has served others as a volunteer firefighter and reserve police officer while actively participating in Lebanon School Corporation's sporting events, and the fun of 4H festivities. He's logged 20 thousand hours of volunteer service – a perfect example of what a Senior Spotlight Award recipient should be.



Barbara Litschgi, Evansville, IN

Barbara Litschgi lives in Evansville, where she is the very definition of an active Hoosier. She's a black belt in Karate and an authority on healthy living. She's a volunteer with Hospice and a regular volunteer at Bethel Manor, where she provides a friendly face to residents who I understand greatly anticipate her visits. She makes a difference in the lives of Hoosiers every day, and that makes her a perfect choice to be one of the first Senior Spotlight award recipients.



Dr. William "Ted" Murphy, Franklin, IN



Dr. Murphy hails from Franklin Indiana, where he sits on the City Council. He has spent his life as an advocate for senior Hoosiers – serving several retirement and long-term care facilities in leadership roles. He's been awarded Honorary Doctor of Divinity from the University of Indianapolis and Franklin College and he has served as an interim pastor for a congregation in Southern Indiana for several years. His active serving spirit has easily made him a winner of today's award.



Dellas Ross, Dillsboro, IN

Mr. Dellas Ross is a pillar of the Dillsboro community. He established the Ross Foundation to help his friends and neighbors with small grants. He's donated land for the public library, and contributed to it with his own writing – Reflections of a Modern Pioneer. Mr. Ross is involved with the local Chamber of Commerce, the Area 12 Council on Aging and even opened a fitness center for seniors in his hometown.



Rita Gettelfinger, Depauw, IN



Rita Gettelfinger has lived all her life in Harrison County, calling Depauw her home. Since her retirement, she has volunteered in her community and served as the RSVP Advisory Council chair. In that role, she started Dial A Care, a program which provides daily phone calls to isolated seniors. She's also involved in the Human Service Association, and Senior Citizen Angel Tree – providing Christmas gifts to seniors who have no family. Her service extends to thoughtful gestures like keeping an extra banket handy for her nursing home visits, and helpful advice with heating assistance in winter.



Joan Ritchie, English, IN

Joan has been a long-serving member of the Lincoln Hills Development Corporation Board and actively participated in the work of the Southern Hills Counseling Center. Her interests have led her to be active with Habitat for Humanity, the Crawford County Public Welfare Board and Emergency Food and Shelter Board and the Marengo State Bank. She has helped many Hoosiers over the years with affordable housing and safe transportation for abused women and children. She was this year's Crawford County Woman Philanthropist of the year, and she's one of our first Senior Spotlight recipients.



Jean Vanderplough, Michigan City, IN



Jean Vanderplough is known to her Michigan City friends and neighbors as a compassionate caregiver and passionate educator. She has logged many hours helping folks who needed her – whether her own family's illness or the issues facing her friends. She's been active in tutoring with Hours for Ours and the Adult literacy program at the Michigan City Public Library. Her church sees her on a regular basis where she is involved in a host of ministry activities.



Frances Ganaway, Fort Wayne, IN

Frances Ganaway hails from Fort Wayne, where she has put in many hours serving with the League for the Blind and Disabled. She's also been active with Arts United, the United Way, Girl Scouts, the Parkview Foundation, the NAACP, the Fort Wayne Rotary and Friends of IPFW. She's been honored with a Sagamore of the Wabash, one of the highest honors the Governor can give. Her friends and colleagues know her as a strong, capable leader whose motivation to succeed never lets her take "no" for an answer.





Velma Apple, Bloomington, IN



Velma Apple is our Bloomington winner. She's volunteered in her community for many years and served 14 children as a foster mother. Her work with the Bloomington Hospital, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Red Cross and many other community organizations makes her a perfect fit for the Senior Spotlight.



Trannie M. Granger, Terre Haute, IN

Trannie M. Granger hails from Terre Haute. A retired school teacher, she has dedicated her life to education, serving the Vigo County School Corporation and Indiana State University with her time and expertise. She's been active in the American Legion Auxiliary and Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. Trannie is known for her love of Terre Haute and her tireless volunteer work, serving her friends and neighbors, a true Senior to Spotlight.



